

**AMERICAN'S REVENGE AGAINST JAPAN IN
MICHAEL BAY'S *PEARL HARBOR* MOVIE (2001):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

by:

**ANGGIET NOVIANA PUTERI
A 320 070 224**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2011

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Pearl Harbor (2001) is the most popular action drama movie about the attack of Japan on Pearl Harbor Naval Base which belongs to United States of America. This movie was published firstly on May 25, 2001 in United States of America. Then, it was released in the same time by Canada, Singapore and Malaysia. This movie was released in many parts of the world such as in Egypt (30 May 2001), Russia (31 May 2001), UK (1 June 2001), Australia (7 June 2001) and Japan (14 July 2001).

Pearl Harbor (2001) was distributed by Touchstone Pictures on DVD and VCD which the run time is 183 minutes. The colors of this film are black and white as archive footage and color as technicolor. The language that is used is English. Then, the sound mix uses DTS-8, DTS, Dolby Digital and also SDDS. *Pearl Harbor* (2001) takes the film location in Angel's Gate Park - 3601 Gaffey Street, San Pedro, Los Angeles, California, USA. It spent the budget \$51 million and gained the gross revenue \$499,220,945. This film was successful because it became box office and it was ranked the seventh highest-earning picture of 2001.

Beside that, it also won many awards such as Oscar as Best Sound Editing for Christopher Boyes and George Watters II in 2002, ASCAP Award as Most Performed Songs for Diana Warren and Top Box Office Films for Hans Zimmer in 2002, Golden Rooster Award as Best Translated

Film in 2002, and Golden Trailer Award as Best Action Film in 2002. Beside winning many awards, this film was nominated in many awards such as Oscar nomination as Best Effect for Eric Brevig, Best Music for Diana Warren and Best Sound for Greg P. Russel. Then, it was nominated by ASC (American Society of Cinematographers) Award as Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography in Theatrical Releases for John Schwartzman.

Everything in this world has positive and negative side, it also was happened in this film. While getting many awards and good responses from the society that delivered it as box office movie, it also got many critical responses. Roger Ebert (2001) said that there is no sense of history, strategy or context; according to this movie, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor because America cut off its oil supply, and they were down to an 18 month reserve. Would going to war restore the fuel sources? Did they perhaps also have imperialist designs? Movie did not say. Andrew Sarris, the reviewer of *The New York Observer*, thought that here is the ironic twist in his acceptance of *Pearl Harbor*(2001)-the parts he liked most are the parts before and after the digital destruction of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese carrier planes. *Pearl Harbor* (2001) is not so much about World War II as it is about movies about World War II because this movie also does not tell the part of nuclear bomb that is fallen in Japan by America. Then, Theo Robertson (2002) from Scotland said that this movie is so full of anachronisms and cliches. This film comes from an American (read

hollywood) perspective. It is caused because in the film Josh Hartnett announces that the world war two has just started. The fact is the second world war started more than two years before in September.

The screenplay of this film was written by Randall Wallace. Randall Wallace is an American song writer, screen writer, producer and director who wrote the screenplay of many films, one of them is *Pearl Harbor* (2001). He was born in Jackson, Tennessee on July 28, 1949. Wallace graduated from E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg, Virginia and attended Duke University, where he was a seminary student. In 1980, Wallace moved to Hollywood after trying out a career in singing and songwriting. He soon began writing short stories, novels and scripts for movies and television shows. He became the writer of many films such as *Braveheart* (1995), *The Man in The Iron Mask* (1998), *Pearl Harbor* (2001), and *We Were Soldier* (2002). Almost of his screenplays are for action films. Then, he also ever became an executive producer of *Fight or Die* (2008) and a director of his new film, *Secretariat* (2010). He won WGA (Writer Guild of America) as the best screenplay for *BraveHeart* (1995) and got nomination of Razzie award as the worst screenplay for *Pearl Harbor* (2001).

Pearl Harbor (2001) movie is directed by Michael Bay who is an American producer and a director. His complete name is Michael Benjamin Bay. He was born in Los Angeles on February 17, 1965. He was graduated from Wesleyan University in 1986, majoring in both English

and Film. He was a member of the Psi Upsilon fraternity and a favorite student of noted film historian Jeanine Basinger. Then, he attended Art Center College of Design in Pasadena where he also studied film. He is best known for directing high-budget action-adventure films characterized for their fast edits and substantial use of practical effects, such as *Bad Boys* (1995), *The Rock* (1996), *Armageddon* (1998), *Pearl Harbor* (2001), *Bad Boys II* (2003), *The Island* (2005), *Transformers* (2007) and *Transformers: Revenge of Fallen* (2009). Bay's film usually has high commercial success and his films are more focus on special effect rather than on character development. However, he got five MTV Movie Awards for Best Movie and Best Summer Movie You Haven't Seen Yet for *Transformers*, Best Action Scene for *Pearl Harbor*, Best Action Scene for *Bad Boys II*, and Best Action Scene for *The Rock*. In 1994, Bay was honored by the Directors Guild of America with an award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Commercials.

Pearl Harbor is about two best friends named Rafe Mc Cawley and Danny Walker. Both of them are American and they have a dream to protect their country. Their fathers are pilots. Both Rafe and Danny want to be great pilots. They have great friendship since childhood until adult. Rafe is a boy who has big loyalty to his best friend, Danny, and he always tends to protect him in every situation no matter how hard it is for him. Seeing his friend in good condition and happiness is satisfaction for him. He becomes a brave and strong man. While Danny is mousier than Rafe

even when they become adult. Danny is like Rafe's young brother because Rafe always protects him. On the other hand, Danny seems cleverer than Rafe because Danny is better on reading than Rafe.

Their dreams come true that they join in United States Army Air Corps to be fighter pilots. Then, Rafe meets Evelyn Johnson, a navy nurse, and they fall in love each other. Rafe serves Royal Air Force's Eagle Squadron Voluntarily under the command but Danny does not know that he is volunteer to be like that. Rafe goes to England in doing his duty while Rafe and Evelyn are transferred to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Meanwhile, Japan plans to attack Pearl Harbor as the naval base of US army because America freezes its trade. Unluckily, Rafe is shot in the war and presumed to be killed in action. So, Danny changes Rafe's position in Evelyn's heart but actually Rafe is still alive. He comes back in Pearl Harbor that night and finds his best friend betrays him.

The next Sunday morning on December 7 in 1941, Japan surprises the entire people of Pearl Harbor by attacking them when they sleep and enjoy their holiday. Japan destroys all of the things in Pearl Harbor and the armies don't have good preparation to defend themselves even that harbor. Fortunately, Rafe and Danny become the heroes of that day by shooting down seven Japanese aircrafts with their reckless tactics. It makes Japan go back not to attack anymore. unluckily, Japan surprise succeeds in destroying the proudness of United States of America, Arizona war ship, and hundreds of people and modern war equipments. On the other side,

Rafe and Danny are promoted as captain and awarded the silver star because of their bravenesses in fighting Japan armies. Then, they are sent to Japan for a dangerous and top secret mission based on the command of America President, Franklin D. Rossevelt, to take revenge in getting America honor back upon all of destruction. The president feels that the honor of America was taken in his homeland by losing the landmark of proudness, Arizona, and lots of armies. Finally, they succeed in doing that mission although it has to be paid by the dead of Danny. Finally, Rafe and Evelyn get married and have son named Danny, the name of Rafe's best friend.

Pearl Harbor is an interesting movie because there are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first aspect is the story of this film is based on the real event that Japan ever attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii which belongs to United States of America on December 7, 1941. It is like historical movie that tells the important moment in World War II; the pinnacle of suspense the war that involved many countries in the world both allied and axis alliance. Michael Bay gives the audiences the understanding about how Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and the reason of that action by using this movie.

The second reason is the visualizations of this movie are very amazing. Michael Bay and his film crews make the audience amazed in this movie because the pictures describe the situations like the real moment at that time. The crew uses two kinds of pictures such as colorful

picture for describing what is happening in the movie and black-and-white picture for describing the archives of World War II that documented when the war is happening. Then, Michael Bay also can show the audiences the wonderful war equipments, like Arizona ship which belongs to the proudness of America, another big war ships, battle aircrafts and many more. This movie also can make audiences broken heart because there are many miserable casualties of that attack like many dead men everywhere especially who are trapped in Arizona ship and many bloody men in hospital. Beside the visualization, this movie has wonderful sound that can describe the real war situation so that it can get the award for the best sound of that year. Hans Zimmer is very genius in filling the musics and the sounds in every parts of the movie so that those can touch the deepest heart of the audiences.

The third is the loyalty for everything that reflected in this movie. There are many lessons that the audiences can take from this movie such as friendship. The audiences do not only watch the war action but also watch the drama of the life like, love, friendship, treason and also loyalty. The friendship between Rafe and Danny is tested by the presenting of one love for two men. Fortunately, the true friendship is always strong even there is a beautiful harassment. The loyalties of them are proved. They, both Rafe and Danny, also can show the loyalty to their homeland by doing the mission that can take their life and it is about the honor of their homeland. This movie tells the audiences that treason can make hurt the

inside of human being like the treason of love. Then, it makes disaster for human being, like ruins of a place and the dead of people, because of the treason like Japan does to America. So, Michael bay wants to show the audiences how important loyalty is in making this life peace.

The last is the revenge of American that is done by America's armies which is reflected in *Pearl Harbor* (2001) is one of interesting movie to be studied. Michael bay wants the audience to give attention that what America's armies do toward Japan is to get their honor back and it makes the American condition get up from the ruins that Japan leaves. The revenge is done by some people but the effects are great for American. America wants to the world pays attention, especially Japan, that although they have lost many war equipments and many armies, they still have braveness to fight against their enemies. The effects can be studied in sociological term which studies the social life of a human.

Based on the previous reasons, the writer will observe *Pearl Harbor* (2001) movie by using sociological theory by Swingewood and Laurenson. So, the writer constructs the title **AMERICAN'S REVENGE AGAINST JAPAN IN MICHAEL BAY'S *PEARL HARBOR* MOVIE (2001): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

Pearl Harbor Movie (2001) by Michael Bay is an interesting movie. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the movie Pearl Harbor has been conducted by students. The first study about *Pearl*

Harbor (2001) is conducted by Yunia Fetrisia, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (2008), entitled *The Descriptive Analysis on the Use of Address Forms in Film Entitled Pearl Harbor*. She uses descriptive analysis in the term of sociolinguistics to analyze the data. The aim of the study is to find out the type of addresses that are used by characters in the film, the interpretation of communicative function and the social meanings of address form in the film. The result of data are the type of addresses are using title, multiple name, last name, full name, first name and title with last name. The interpretation of communicative functions are to show formality, respect, insult the addressee, warn addressee, show intimacy, solidarity, power and great addressee. the social meanings of address form are social distance scale, social status scale, formality scale, and functions scale.

The second study is conducted by Wijianto (2009), a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, entitled *An Analysis of Politeness Principle in the Expressive Act in the Movie of Pearl Harbor*. In his research, he uses the expressive acts used by the characters of *Pearl Harbor* (2001) movie as the data. Then, he uses politeness principle in analyzing the data. The objectives of his research are to describe the types of expressive utterances, the intentions of the utterances and the politeness principle patterns. The results are there are five expressive acts used in the film, 24 speakers intentions used in the film and there are the application and also the violation of politeness principle.

The differences between the writer and the two previous writers are the theme and the perspective. Yunia Fetrisia writes the use of address form in *Pearl Harbor* movie (2001) by using descriptive analysis in term of sociolinguistics perspective. While, Wijiyanto writes expressive acts in *Pearl Harbor* movie (2001) by using politeness principle in pragmatics perspective. The writer analyzes American's revenge against Japan in *Pearl Harbor* movie by using sociological approach in literature perspective.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of this research is “How is American's revenge against Japan reflected in *Pearl Harbor* (2001) movie using sociological approach?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing American's revenge against Japan in *Pearl Harbor* (2001) movie based on sociological approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Michael Bay's *Pearl Harbor* (2001) movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To describe American's revenge against Japan in Michael Bay's *Pearl Harbor* (2001) movie based on sociological approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of studying *Pearl Harbor* (2001) movie are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is hoped by the writer can give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Pearl Harbor* (2001) movie.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is hoped to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer, generally for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and also can be used as reference by other universities that are interested in literary study on the movie based on sociological approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This type of research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Pearl Harbor* movie directed by Michael Bay and publishing by Touchstone Picture in 2001. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

a. Primary Data

The primary data sources of the study are *Pearl Harbor* movie directed by Michael Bay from Touchstone Picture and the script movie written by Randall Wallace.

b. Secondary Data

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the movie. They are Sociology of Literature, Theory of Literature, Sociology of Literature and Drama and the others.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection are capturing the picture and note taking, with the steps are:

- a. Watching the movie for the several times,
- b. Reading the movie script,
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed,
- d. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data,
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data, and
- f. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie and the analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and sociological approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research organization of American's Revenge Against Japan in Michael Bay's *Pearl Harbor* movie (2001): A sociological Approach is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; it consists of Sociology of Literature, The Perspective of Sociology of Literature, Structural Elements of the Movie, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Social Historical Background of American Society in the Late Nineteenth Century which covers social aspect, political aspects, economic aspects, science and technology, cultural aspect and religious aspect. Chapter IV is structural Analysis of *Pearl Harbor* movie; it covers (1) The Structural Elements of *Pearl Harbor* movie; it consists of Narrative Elements of the Movie such as Characteristics and Characterization, Setting, Casting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme; and then Technical Elements of the Movie such as Mise en scene, Cinematography, Sound and Editing; (2) Discussion. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *Pearl Harbor* movie that consists of the social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and

technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect; and Discussion. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.